

# **TRANSFUND NEW ZEALAND**

## **Summary Report of Safety Audits of Existing Roads undertaken in 1997 & 1998**

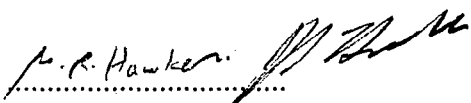
Review and Audit Division  
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**TRANSFUND NEW ZEALAND**


**SUMMARY REPORT OF**

**SAFETY AUDITS OF EXISTING ROADS**

**UNDERTAKEN IN 1997 & 1998**

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## **PREFACE**

This report has been compiled from the main findings recorded during the Safety Audit of Existing Roads undertaken in 1997 and 1998. The report summarises the main themes identified in the safety audit reports, with the intention of providing a single document which can expose the audit findings of the last two years to the profession as a whole.

The report summarises the main deficiencies noted by safety audit teams at the time of the safety audits, and it is recognised that several Road Controlling Authorities have since put in place policies and procedures to address some of the issues identified. Safety audits now also identify features which have a consistent and high standard, however, these are not covered in this summary report.

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the report, it is made available strictly on the basis that anyone relying on it does so at their own risk without any liability to Transfund New Zealand.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Safety auditing of existing roads has been developed over the past four years to provide a method of undertaking a peer review of safety features on an existing road network. This report provides a summary of the main findings of the 11 safety audits of existing roads commissioned in 1997 and 1998.

As safety audits of existing roads are undertaken as a one-on-one exchange between the auditee (RCA) and the auditor (Transfund Team), it is intended that this report will provide a means of informing the profession as a whole of the results of the safety audits.

The following common issues were identified in the rural road safety audits:

- **Signs** - Inconsistent application of curve warning signs and chevron boards;
- **Delineation** - Inconsistent establishment of edge marker posts and bridge end marker posts;
- **Roadside Hazards** - Common existence of non-frangible roadside hazards;
- **Intersections** - Poor intersection layouts, inconspicuous intersections, and inconsistent application of control;
- **Maintenance** - Poor maintenance levels of edge break, edge marker posts, and detritus;
- **Road Works** - Non compliance with appropriate standards.

The following common issues were identified in the urban road safety audits:

- **Urban/Rural Interface** - Lack of urban speed environment and threshold controls;
- **Signs** - Inconsistent application of traffic island warning signs and road name signs. Poor control of advertising signs;
- **Delineation** - Inconsistent application of raised reflectorised pavement markers;
- **Pavement Marking** - Inconsistent application of edge lines, flush medians, no stopping lines, and no overtaking lines;
- **Level of Service** - Inappropriate posted speed limits;
- **Roadside Hazards** - Inappropriate use of guardrail;
- **Intersections** - Inconsistent traffic signal layouts, and inconsistent delineation of smaller roundabouts;
- **Pedestrian Crossing Facilities** - Varying standards of pedestrian crossing facilities;
- **Lighting** - Inconsistent standard of lighting on arterial routes and urban fringe areas;
- **Maintenance** - Poor vegetation control.

It should be noted that several RCA's have already identified deficiencies themselves and have programmes in place to address them, whilst other RCA's have moved to implement the recommendations made in the safety audit reports.

However, there is still a considerable variation in the application of standards and guidelines throughout the country. This results in an inconsistent "picture" to road users as they travel from one area to another, where there should be a predictable "no surprises" environment.

## **GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS**

<b>BEMP</b>	Bridge End Marker Post
<b>CCIB</b>	Chevron Curve Indicator Board
<b>CSB</b>	Chevron Sight Board
<b>EMP</b>	Edge Marker Post
<b>LTSA</b>	Land Transport Safety Authority
<b>MOTSAM</b>	Manual of Traffic Signs and Markings
<b>NAASRA</b>	National Association of Australian State Road Authorities
<b>RCA</b>	Road Controlling Authority
<b>RNS</b>	Road Name Sign
<b>RRPM</b>	Raised Reflectorised Pavement Marker
<b>RTS</b>	Road and Traffic Standards (produced by the LTSA)
<b>Transfund</b>	Transfund New Zealand Review and Audit Division

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